

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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10

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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R 301948 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9260

INFO USCINCSO FOR POLAD

UNCLAS CARACAS 2751

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, VE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CALDERA ANNOUNCES LEGALIZATION OF MIR

1. PRESIDENT CALDERA AT REGULAR WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 29 ANNOUNCED GOVERNMENT PREVIOUS DAY HAD APPROVED LIFTING LEGAL BAN ON MOVEMENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR). CALDERA CALLED DECISION " NEW, IMPORTANT STEP IN NORMALIZATION OF POLITICAL LIFE OF COUNTRY". CALDERA COUPLED REAFFIRMATION OF TOLERANCE FOR LEGAL OPPOSITION WITH WARNING OF DISTINCTION BETWEEN THIS AND " VIOLENT AND INSURRECTIONAL ACTIVITY" OUTSIDE LAW; HE PLEDGED THAT AUTHORITIES WILL REMAIN VIGILANT, ALERT AND VIGOROUS IN CONFRONTING THOSE WHO INSIST ON CARRYING OUT VIOLENCE.

2. COMMENT: LONG EXPECTED LEGALIZATION OF MIR CAME ALMOST ELEVEN YEARS FROM BETANCOURT DECISION MAY 9, 1962 TO BAN PARTY AFTER TERRORIST BOMBING OF " EL ENCANTO" TRAIN. WHAT REMAINS OF MIR HAS FOR OVER A YEAR SOUGHT LEGALIZATION IN RETURN FOR PLEDGE TO CONDUCT OPPOSITION WITHIN LEGAL LIMITS.
MCCLINTOCK

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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